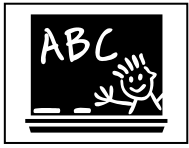


# Thomas Russell Junior School

*Inspiring all, achieving together.*



## Newsletter



Issue No. 16

*Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe*

9<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### Welcome back (and welcome)

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and were able to spend some time relaxing with family and friends. It was super to welcome the children back to school on Monday looking wide awake and refreshed - a great start! We also welcome two new members of staff: Mrs Sanders to Y6 and Miss Marston to Y4. Both have enjoyed their start here and say how helpful and friendly the children are.

We ended 2014 in a very strong position with a Good Ofsted report, excellent SATs results and top of the ten local schools in the league tables (not to mention an invitation to meet the Secretary of State for Education in London to celebrate our achievements!)

In 2015 we look forward to building on that even further, through close partnership with our Parent Forum, welcoming new members to our Governing Body, further strengthening transition with both TRIS & JTHS and more linked up working with external advisors, HMIs and local primary schools to share excellent practice.

Our internal tracking shows us that children in all year groups across school have the best standards of attainment we have ever had; this is due to consistently effective teaching, specifically targeted at children's level of need. We have undeniable evidence that the implementation of the three-way class split for Literacy and Numeracy has had a positive impact on progress at all levels and we will be looking to continue to build on this.

Our Monitoring and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) programmes are stronger than ever, as we look to focus on the areas for development identified through our own evaluations as well as those from external advisors and Ofsted. We are in no way complacent about the position we have achieved. If anything we are more determined than ever to continue our journey upwards to ensure every pupil gets the best education and experience throughout their time at Thomas Russell Junior.

The value of developing Literacy and Numeracy skills is undeniable, but this year staff already have some really interesting and exciting ideas about how we can improve the broader curriculum to fully engage children and offer even more opportunities to fire their imaginations. We want to maintain the excellent musical provision, through delivery by specialist teachers and access to experiences such as choir singing at the LG arena. Our PE provision is exceptional with qualified coaches, our own swimming pool and the broadest range of extra-curricular clubs you will find in a very wide circle of school, so we look forward to this reaping further rewards in competitions and events. Further to this we are looking at greater team learning across school (building on the effectiveness of our mixed age Golden Time and work in Houses for our Christmas Concert) with ideas for science week, maths challenge day and of course our selection of residential visits and trips which the children love and are fundamental in making life long memories.

**We look forward to you joining us on this exciting journey for 2015.**

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### Termly Reports

We hope you found the publication of our Termly Reports useful. They are designed to give parents a clear and up-to-date indication of their child's strengths and areas for development.

It is hoped these will be referred back to during Parent Consultations in February where we will be able to look at whether children have maintained or improved their standards. Please do ensure that you return the Report Reply if you haven't already done so.

### Christmas Carol Service

Thank you again for your attendance at our Carol Service and for your positive feedback afterwards. Your kind donations raised £217.82 to support Lauren's medical visit to America for treatment, for which I know her family are very grateful.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please find attached the form indicating which clubs will be running this term. Please do pay attention to dates as there is a variety of start and finish dates.

Forms must be returned by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Following this you will receive confirmation of the clubs at which your child has a place. There is an expectation children will attend EVERY session unless written notification is provided.

### Interesting Jobs

This week in our assemblies we have been looking at goals and ambitions. The children have been identifying the skills and qualities they may need in jobs in the future as well as discussing their own and other's ambitions and how they change.

If there are any parents who have 'interesting' jobs that would be willing to come and talk to the children to explain a little about what they do and answer some questions we would really appreciate it.

Last term we had Mr Fuller come and talk to us about Teenage Cancer Trust, the inspirational Steven Sutton and the legacy he has left.

Miss Murfin would be particularly interested to hear from anyone working in Science; this means any job that puts biology, chemistry or physics into use.

### Friend's Meeting

Don't forget the next Friend's meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January at The Three Horseshoes at 7:30pm

### Diary Dates

<i>Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>	<i>12:00</i>	<i>Children to Young Voices Concert at LG Arena</i>
	<i>5:15 for 5:30</i>	<i>Parent coach leaves promptly</i>
<i>Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>	<i>7:30</i>	<i>Friend's Meeting at the Three Horseshoes</i>
<i>Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>Mr Holmes from JTHS in Y6 - Maths</i>
<i>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>9:00</i>	<i>Parent Forum</i>
<i>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Break up from school</i>
<i>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>Back to school</i>
<i>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>4:00 – 7:00</i>	<i>Parent Consultations</i>
<i>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Mar</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Parent Workshop - Literacy</i>
<i>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Mar – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Mar</i>		<i>Y5 Chasewater Residential</i>
<i>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Break up for Easter</i>
<i>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Apr</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>Back to school</i>
<i>Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May</i>		<i>Y4 Whitemoor Lakes Residential</i>
<i>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May</i>		<i>Bank Holiday</i>
<i>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> - Thur 14<sup>th</sup> May</i>		<i>SATs Assessment Week</i>
<i>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Break up from school</i>
<i>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> June</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>Back to school</i>
<i>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July</i>		<i>Y6 PGL Residential</i>
<i>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>3:15</i>	<i>Leaver's Parade and break up for Summer.</i>

Further information about specific events will follow closer to the time.

*Best wishes,  
Mrs Sharpe*

Extra Curricular Clubs and Activities - Spring Term 2015 Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY PLEASE PAY VIA PARENT PAY ON CONFIRMATION**

	Before School	During School	Lunch Time	After School	Permission signature (only for after school activities)	
Mon	Breakfast Club - 8:00 - 8:45 - Mrs Rumsey -	Woodwind - Mrs R Lesley	MathMania (ICT) - Mrs Kerr-Delworth - 12:45 - 1:05	Team Games Club - Burton Albion Coach - 3:30 - 4:30 - All years - (starts 19/1)		£20
				Advanced Skills - Burton Albion Coach - 3:30 - 4:30	Invited children from Upper School	No charge
				Swimming Lessons - Mrs Owen - Please call 07976 620028		
Tues	Breakfast Club - 8:00 - 8:45 - Mrs Alcock		Keyboards - Mr Atterbury	Multi-Skills Club - Burton Albion Coach - 3:30 - 4:30 - All years - (starts 20/1)		£20
				Advanced Skills - Burton Albion Coach - 3:30 - 4:30	Invited children from Lower School	No charge
				Science - Miss Murfin & Miss Marshall - 3:30 - 4:30 (starts 20/1)	Invited children from each class	No charge
				Swimming Lessons - Mrs Owen - Please call 07976 620028		
Wed	Breakfast Club - 8:00 - 8:45 - Mrs Rumsey	School Council - regular meetings 9:00 - 9:30 - Mrs Sharpe	La Jolie Ronde French Club - Mrs Kingston - see separate booking form or contact sharonkingston@hotmail.co.uk 07780 635926	Country Dancing - Mrs Gahagan & Mrs Fowler - 3:30 - 4:30 (28/1, 4/2, 11/2, 25/2, 4/3)		No charge
				Eco Warriors - Mrs Gahagan & Mrs Fowler - 3:30 - 4:30 - (recommences 18/3)	Class nominated children	No charge
				Cookery Club - Mrs Vardy - 3:30 - 4:30 - Limited places (starts 21/1)		£25
				Swimming Lessons - Mrs Owen - Please call 07976 620028		
Thurs	Breakfast Club - 8:00 - 8:45 - Mrs Alcock	String Lessons - Mrs E Taney	Stationery Shop - Y6 children	Art - Miss Bordoli- Lower School - 3:30 - 4:30 (starts 22/1)		No charge
				Gymnastics - Miss Marston - Upper School - 3:30 - 4:30 (starts 22/1)		No charge
				Swimming Lessons - Mrs Owen - Please call 07976 620028		
Fri	Breakfast Club - 8:00 - 8:45 - Mrs Alcock	Aeroplanes Karaoke		SoccerStars - 3:30 - 4:30 - All years	See Company booking form	
				iPad Club - Mrs Sanders - 3:30 - 4:30 - All years (starts 23/1)		No charge
				Choir - Mrs Sharpe - 3:30 - 4:30 - All years (finishes 6/2)		No charge
				Ski Club - Mrs Sharpe - 3:30 - 4:30 - All years - after half term	Please sign to request detail letter	Approx £40

Please note there are limited places available for a number of the activities and some activities may carry a char

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